

September 29, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC APPROVES 2-1-1 DIALING FOR FOUR NEBRASKA COUNTIES  
FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REFERRALS**

LINCOLN – Four more counties will join the list of Nebraska political subdivisions that have 2-1-1, or three-digit dialing, for health and human services referrals.

Telephone companies in Burt, Cuming, and Thurston Counties in northeast Nebraska and Thayer County in south central Nebraska will have 2-1-1 dialing by the end of the year, according to the Nebraska Public Service Commission which recently approved the application for the service from United Way of the Midlands in Omaha.

The Commission set a December 23 deadline for implementation of the new service, which provides access to United Way of the Midland's First Call For Help by dialing only 2-1-1 rather than a seven-digit regular telephone number. Trained referral specialists can then put callers in touch with public and private agencies to help them with health and human services concerns.

The inclusion of Burt, Cuming, and Thurston Counties makes the Public Service Commission's eight-county Third District, represented by Lowell Johnson of North Bend, the first multi-county district to fully have access to 2-1-1. Johnson said, "I'm happy that United Way of the Midlands is providing 2-1-1 access in all the counties in my district. The program has been growing for the last few years and now two-thirds of the state's population can benefit from 2-1-1 dialing. It has been a well received service in each of the communities where it is currently provided."

Thayer County is part of the Commission's Fourth District, represented by Rod Johnson of Sutton.

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